

April 20, 2025

Dr. Jennifer Sobanet
Office of the Chancellor
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Dear Chancellor Sobanet and Members of the Search Committee:

I am inspired by the mission and vision of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), and I enthusiastically submit this statement of interest in becoming your next Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Communications, and Engagement. I have spent my career creating opportunity for people to change their lives and the lives of those around them, and I believe UCCS exemplifies the values that are most important to me.

I bring 25 years of fundraising experience, most of it in leadership positions, and I have been fortunate to also lead communications and marketing functions in several of my roles. At Centura Health, I led a team of 20 people supporting a six-hospital operating group in north Denver and the mountains. We focused on building relationships with grateful patients and their families, creating strong internal and external communications to elevate the profile of our hospitals and strengthen employee satisfaction, and identifying partnership opportunities in our communities.

At Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), I partner closely with the leaders of alumni relations, marketing and communications, and government relations to advance our first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, Roadrunners RISE. We have raised \$78 million toward a \$100 million goal since the 2021 launch and are on track to exceed the target when the campaign concludes in 2026.

My team has become a fundraising powerhouse. Last year, we raised more than \$20 million, and we are poised to raise more this fiscal year. The momentum is now entrenched and unstoppable. We have built the muscle and infrastructure to raise \$15 million or more annually post-campaign, a significant increase compared with pre-campaign performance.

As this campaign concludes, I am excited to contemplate the next step in my leadership journey. The opportunity at UCCS appeals to me because of the breadth of responsibility, the student population, and the heavy emphasis you are placing on partnerships and community outreach in your strategic plan and in this job description. I would be honored

to finish my career at UCCS leading a talented and motivated team that is focused on advancing the university's long-term success and commitment to students, faculty, and the broader community.

I wish you all the best as you consider your next leader in University Advancement and Development. I know this is a critical decision for the future of the university and for Colorado Springs, and I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and begin a conversation about my sincere desire to join the team.

Warm regards,

Shelley Thompson

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